

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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S E C R E T LISBON 3857

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: EL AL FLIGHTS VIA LAJES

1. ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN LISBON, RETHAEL MIGDAL, CALLED OCTOBER 18 FOR MY ADVICE ON INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO SEEK GOP APPROVAL FOR EL AL FLIGHTS TO REFUEL AT LAJES EN ROUTE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US, HE SAID EIGHT BOEING 707 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE INVOLVED TRANSPORTING MILITARY CARGO.

2. I OUTLINED FOR HIM PORTUGUESE CONCERNS OVER RISKS THEY RUN AT IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAEL RESUPPLY BY US AND THAT, IF TASKED BY ARABS, THEY HOPE MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS BY STATING THAT LAJES BASE AGREEMENT PERMITS US MILITARY TRANSIT FLIGHTS THROUGH LAJES WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO GOP. THIS DEFENCE OF THEIRS WOULD NOT COVER EL AL FLIGHTS, WHICH WOULD BROADEN THEIR IDENTIFICATION AND WOULD BE SEEN BY THEM AS ENHANCING RISKS TO THEM. CONCEIVABLY IF AIRCRAFT PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE USAF AIRCRAFT, GOP MIGHT CONCUR, AND I SUGGESTED HE MIGHT WISH SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ENABLING HIM TO ASSURE GOP THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE SO DISGUISED BEFORE MAKING DEMARCHE TO GOP. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, I GAVE MY OPINION THAT IN ANY CASE REQUEST FROM HIM WAS UNLIKELY HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS FOR US RESUPPLY FLIGHTS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: worrelsw
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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